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AUTHOR(S):

SAKAMOTO, MARIKO; NISHIKAWA, KANTO; MATSUI, MASAFUMI

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Two Types of *Hynobius naevius* from the Central Region of Kyushu Island, Japan (Caudata: Hynobiidae)

MARIKO SAKAMOTO¹*, KANTO NISHIKAWA², AND MASAFUMI MATSUI²

¹ Graduate School of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University, Kumamoto 860–8555, JAPAN

² Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606–8501, JAPAN

Abstract: We surveyed allozymic variation among *Hynobius naevius* from 11 localities of central Kyushu, Japan. The results revealed the presence of two genetic groups (I and II) that exhibited a great difference in allelic frequency and a large genetic distance. Specimens from seven of the 11 localities invariably belonged to Group I, and those from three other localities belonged to Group II. In the remaining one locality, representatives of both of these two groups were found just as in northern Kyushu. The two genetic groups also differed in morphological (Group I larger than Group II in body size) and ecological characters (breeding sites located in open streams in Group I, but possibly in underground water in Group II). These differences might have been enabling them to coexist.

Key words: Allozymic variation; Caudata; Central Kyushu; *Hynobius naevius*; Sympatry

INTRODUCTION

Hynobius naevius is a lotic-breeding salamander inhabiting wide areas in southwestern Japan. This species has long been known to exhibit extensive morphological variations (Sato, 1943), and Sato et al. (1994) recognized three distinct morphotypes within Kyushu (northern, central, and southern Kyushu types). However, Tominaga et al. (2003) found sympatric occurrences of the northern and southern Kyushu types of Sato et al. (1994) in a certain region of northern Kyushu and docu-

mented their morphological divergences (a relatively large body and unmottled dorsum in the northern type, and a smaller body and mottled dorsum in the southern type). Tominaga et al. (2003) also clarified genetic differentiation between the two morphotypes. On the other hand, these authors rejected the validity of the central Kyushu type of Sato et al. (1994), which was reported to have a relatively large body and mottled dorsal pattern.

The island of Kyushu can be roughly divided into northern, central, and southern regions on the basis of geological, geographical, and topographical differences. Of these, the central region is famous for its volcanoes extending from east to west along the Beppu-Shimabara Graben. Whether the central

* Corresponding author. Tel: +81-96-342-3448;
Fax: +81-96-342-3448;
E-mail address: naevius4mari@ybb.ne.jp

Kyushu type of *H. naevius* is valid as Sato et al. (1994) proposed or invalid as Tominaga et al. (2003) claimed is an interesting problem from the viewpoint of physiographic features of the central Kyushu region. At the same time, the sympatric occurrences of the northern and southern Kyushu types in northern Kyushu (Tominaga et al., 2003) suggest the presence of a similar situation in central Kyushu.

To estimate the evolutionary history of *H. naevius* within Kyushu, it is necessary to elucidate the geographic genetic structure, and the patterns of morphological and ecological diversity in this species from central and southern Kyushu, for which relevant information is still insufficient (Tominaga et al., 2003).

Bearing these things in mind, we surveyed genetic variation in *H. naevius* from central Kyushu. In addition, we attempted to infer the origin of the *H. naevius* population inhabiting the inside slope of the caldera rim of Aso Volcano. As mentioned above, central Kyushu is characterized by volcanoes and is supposed to have undergone the most extensive geological environmental changes in Kyushu. For example, Aso Volcano, world-famous for its large caldera, is known to have had four major eruptions of extraordinarily large scale from approximately 270,000 to 85,000 years ago (Machida et al., 2001), and a part of its central cone still remains active. Nevertheless, a population of *H. naevius* inhabits the inside slope of the caldera rim of this volcano as the only salamander there. We tried to clarify the origin of this population by surveying its genetic relationships with populations from surrounding areas.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We made field surveys for a total of 53 days between April 2002 and January 2004 at 19 localities in central Kyushu (Fig. 1; Table 1), where *H. naevius* was expected to occur.

We searched under stones and dead leaves at the bottom and on the banks of small streams and surrounding slopes (<45 m from the

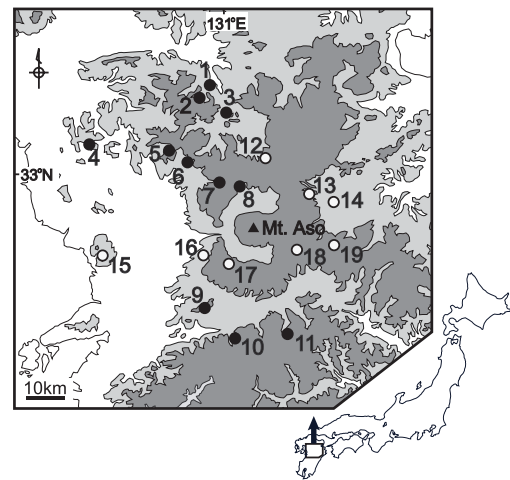


FIG. 1. A map of central Kyushu, showing localities surveyed in the present study. Locality numbers correspond to those listed in Table 1. Closed and open circles indicate localities visited, where salamanders were found and not found, respectively. Light gray and dark gray areas indicate ≥ 200 m a.s.l. and ≥ 600 m a.s.l., respectively.

stream), to collect larvae and metamorphs. From March to May 2003, we tried to find eggs in the open mountain streams (1.5–4 m in width) and in underground streams (ca. 1 m below the ground). From June to October 2003, we searched for individuals just after metamorphosis by turning stones and leaves on banks of mountain streams and also by digging the ground of slopes along the streams (<60 cm below the ground). We also searched for overwintering larvae in mountain streams from December 2003 to January 2004. We recorded the microhabitat of each individual on the basis of distance from the mountain stream, depth from the ground surface, and size of stones at the place where we encountered it.

A total of 176 specimens of *H. naevius* from 11 localities (Table 1), including both larvae and metamorphs (juveniles and adults), were used for genetic analyses. Salamanders were anesthetized with chlorotone (acetone chloroform) saturated solution, and their livers were removed and maintained frozen at -80°C until use for electrophoresis. At the same time, we

TABLE 1. Sampling localities, sample size, and morphological/genetic groups (see text) of samples/subsamples of *Hynobius naevius* examined. BLF=broadleaf forest, JCF=Japanese cedar forest.

Sample /subsample	Locality	Altitude (m)	Forest type	Sample size			Group
				Larvae	Metamorphs	Total	
1	Oyama-machi, Hita-shi, Oita Pref.	300–350	BLF (partially JCF)	36	8	44	I
2	Maetsue-mura, Hita-shi, Oita Pref.	340–380	JCF and BLF	18	7	25	I
3	Oguni-machi, Kumamoto Pref.	320	JCF	15	—	15	I
4	Mikawa-machi, Kumamoto Pref.	240–320	JCF (partially BLF)	8	—	8	I
5-1	Kikuka-machi, Yamaga-shi, Kumamoto Pref.	500–650	BLF (partially JCF)	16	8	24	I
5-2	Kikuka-machi, Yamaga-shi, Kumamoto Pref.	600–650	BLF (partially JCF)	—	3	3	II
6	Kikuchi-shi, Kumamoto Pref.	300	JCF (partially BLF)	1	—	1	I
7	Kikuchi-keikoku, Kikuchi-shi, Kumamoto Pref.	600–650	BLF	13	1	14	I
8	Aso-machi, Aso-shi, Kumamoto Pref.	560–660	JCF	21	2	23	I
9	Yamato-cho (formerly Yabe-machi), Kumamoto Pref.	640–700	JCF (partially BLF)	—	10	10	II
10	Yamato-cho (formerly Yabe-machi), Kumamoto Pref.	740–880	JCF (partially BLF)	—	8	8	II
11	Yamato-cho (formerly Seiwa-son), Kumamoto Pref.	810	BLF	—	1	1	II
12	Minamioguni-machi, Kumamoto Pref.	580–640	JCF (partially BLF)	—	—	—	—
13	Ubuyama-mura, Kumamoto Pref.	460–520	JCF	—	—	—	—
14	Taketa-shi, Oita Pref.	320–400	JCF (partially BLF)	—	—	—	—
15	Kumamoto-shi, Kumamoto Pref.	400–500	JCF	—	—	—	—
16	Nishihara-mura, Kumamoto Pref.	370–410	BLF	—	—	—	—
17	Minamiaso-mura (formerly kugino-mura), Kumamoto Pref.	1040–1080	BLF	—	—	—	—
18	Takamori-machi, Kumamoto Pref.	600–700	BLF	—	—	—	—
19	Takamori-machi, Kumamoto Pref.	900–950	BLF	—	—	—	—

examined sex and maturity of each specimen by observing the gonads. Voucher specimens, fixed in 10% formalin and later preserved in 70% and 50% ethanol for metamorphs and larvae, respectively, are stored in Sakamoto's private collection.

Homogenized tissue extracts were analyzed by standard horizontal starch gel electrophoresis (Ayala et al., 1972; Shaw and Prasad, 1970) using Starch Art (Otto Hiler, Madison, Wisconsin, USA) and starch from potatoes

(Fluka Chemie GmbH, CH-9471 Buchs, Switzerland) mixed in a 1:1 ratio and then suspended in buffer at a concentration of 12%.

Staining methods followed Shaw and Prasad (1970) and Harris and Hopkinson (1976). Genetic interpretations of allozyme-bands were based on criteria developed by Selander et al. (1971). Enzyme nomenclature, E.C. numbers, and the notation of loci, electromorphs, and genotypes mainly follow Murphy et al. (1996)

TABLE 2. Enzymes, presumptive loci, and buffer systems used in the analyses of allozyme variations among samples/subsamples of *Hynobius naevius*.

Enzyme	E.C. number	Locus	Buffer systems*
Aconitate hydratase	4.2.1.3	ACOH-A	TC8
Aconitate hydratase	4.2.1.3	ACOH-B	TC8
Aspartate transaminase	2.6.1.1	ATA-A	CAPM6
Aspartate transaminase	2.6.1.1	ATA-B	CAPM6, TC7
Glucose-6-phosphate isomerase	5.3.1.9	GPI-A	CAPM6
Glutamate dehydrogenase	1.4.1.3	GTDH-A	TC8
Glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	1.1.1.8	G3PDH-A	TC8
Isocitrate dehydrogenase	1.1.1.42	IDH-A	TC7
Isocitrate dehydrogenase	1.1.1.42	IDH-B	TC7
L-Lactate dehydrogenase	1.1.1.27	LDH-A	CAPM6, TC7
L-Lactate dehydrogenase	1.1.1.27	LDH-B	CAPM6, TC7
Malate dehydrogenase	1.1.1.37	MDH-A	CAPM6, TC8
Malate dehydrogenase	1.1.1.37	MDH-B	CAPM6, TC8
Malic enzyme**	1.1.1.40	MDHP-A	TC7
Malic enzyme**	1.1.1.40	MDHP-B	TC7
Phosphoglucomutase	5.4.2.2	PGM-A	TC7
Phosphoglucomutase	5.4.2.2	PGM-C	TC7
Phosphogluconate dehydrogenase	1.1.1.44	PGDH-A	TC7

* CAPM6: Citrate-aminopropylmorpholine, pH=6.0 (Clayton and Tretiak, 1972). TC7: Tris-citrate, pH=7.0 (Shaw and Prasad, 1970), TC8: Tris-citrate, pH=8.0 (Clayton and Tretiak, 1972), TBE8.7: Tris-borate-EDTA, pH=8.7 (Boyer et al., 1963). ** NADP-dependent malate dehydrogenase.

and IUBM (1992). Electromorphs were designated by letters with "a" representing the most rapidly migrating variant.

We examined 18 presumptive loci encoding 11 enzyme systems (Table 2) and analyzed data using the BIOSYS-1 program package (Swofford and Selander, 1981). Standard estimates of genetic variability, i.e., mean heterozyosity by direct count (H), proportion of polymorphic loci (P), and the mean number of alleles per locus (A), were computed for each sample. Variable loci were checked by goodness-of-fit tests to determine whether they were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium in each sample. The expected numbers of each genotype were calculated using Levene's (1949) formulae for small samples.

Using samples of sufficiently large size [Sample 1 (OYAMA), Sample 2 (MAETSUE), and Subsample 5-1 (a part of KIKUKA: see

below)], we first compared allele frequencies between metamorphs and larvae within a sample, and found no significant differences between them. Therefore, we combined data for metamorphs and larvae from the same locality in the subsequent analyses.

In order to estimate overall genetic differentiation among samples, we calculated Nei's unbiased genetic distance (Nei, 1978) and modified Rogers' (Wright, 1978) distance. Patterns of genetic similarities and dissimilarities among samples were inferred by the UPGMA clustering algorithm with Nei's (1978) distance (Sneath and Sokal, 1973) and the Neighbor-joining (NJ) method (Saitou and Nei, 1987) based on the modified Rogers' distance (Wright, 1978). These analyses were performed by use of the BIOSYS-1 (Swofford and Selander, 1981) and PHYLIP ver. 3.5C (Felsenstein, 1993), respectively.

RESULTS

Field observations

We collected salamanders at 11 of 19 localities surveyed (Fig. 1, Table 1). We failed to find salamanders in the remaining eight localities including locality 12, where larval *H. naevius* was recorded in 1960 (Environmental Agency of Japan, 1979). In our field observations from March to May, we found two groups of adult salamanders that differ in morphology and habitat type (Table 1). Adults collected under stones and dead leaves in mountain streams (1.5–4 m in width) and on their banks tended to be larger in body size (average snout-vent length [SVL]=72.1 mm) and lacked mottling on the bluish purple dorsum, while those collected from slopes outside the streams were smaller (average SVL=63.9 mm) with brownish white mottling on a reddish purple dorsum. Adult salamanders of this smaller type were found 5–30 cm below the ground densely covered by stones on slopes, 4–23 m away from the streams. Localities 1, 2, 7, and 8 were occupied only by salamanders of the larger type, while localities

9, 10, and 11 were occupied by those of the smaller type. In locality 5 (KIKUKA), both types were found. We failed to find metamorphs in localities 3, 4, and 6. We found no eggs of *H. naevius* in any of the localities we surveyed, although some females of both the larger and smaller types had mature eggs in their abdomen.

From March to May, we found larval salamanders under stones and dead leaves in the streams of localities 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8. Because they were large (total length > 50 mm) and seemingly well-grown, we supposed them to have hatched in the previous year and to have overwintered in these streams. From July to September, we also found larvae in localities 1–8, but failed to find them in the remaining localities. We found larvae in locality 5, but failed to find them in localities 9 and 10 in winter (December–January).

All these larvae lacked claw-like structures on the tips of their digits and thus were identified as *H. naevius*, because larvae of the other lotic-breeding salamanders from Kyushu (*H. boulengeri* and *H. stejnegeri*) have these structures (Sato, 1943; Sato, 1954, 2003).

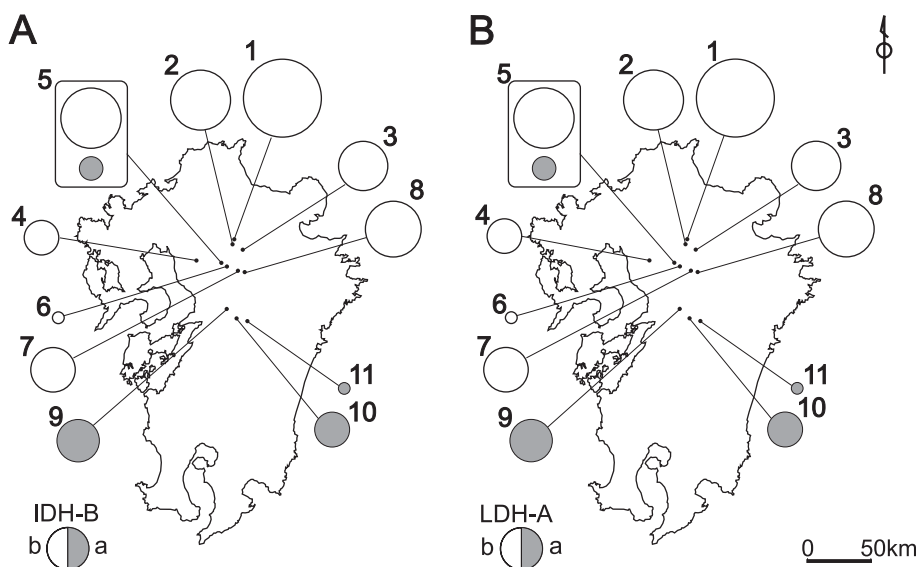


FIG. 2. Allelic frequencies at IDH-B (A) and LDH-A (B) loci in samples of *Hynobius naevius* from 11 localities of central Kyushu. Locality numbers correspond to those in Table 1.

TABLE 3. Allele frequencies for polymorphic loci resolved and genetic variability at 18 loci in the samples of *Hynobius naevius*. A=mean number of alleles per locus; P=percentage of polymorphic loci; H=mean heterozygosity by direct count. For population/subpopulation number, refer to Table 1 and text.

		Sample/subsample (n)											
Locus	(alleles)	1 (44)	2 (25)	3 (15)	4 (8)	5-1 (24)	5-2 (3)	6 (1)	7 (14)	8 (23)	9 (10)	10 (8)	11 (1)
ACOH-A	a	0.011			0.125	0.083	0.833		0.214	0.109	0.350	0.188	
	b	0.989	1.000	1.000	0.875	0.917	0.167	1.000	0.786	0.891	0.650	0.812	1.000
ACOH-B	a					0.063	0.667		0.036		0.300	0.438	
	b	0.045	0.060	0.100	0.313	0.500	0.333	0.500	0.393	0.283	0.700	0.562	0.500
	c	0.955	0.940	0.767	0.437	0.354			0.571	0.717			0.500
	d			0.133	0.250	0.083		0.500					
ATA-A	a	0.205	0.020										
	b	0.795	0.840	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
	c		0.140										
ATA-B	a	1.000	0.980	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.812	1.000
	b		0.020									0.188	
GPI-A	a	1.000	1.000	0.833	1.000	0.854	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.937	0.500
	b			0.167		0.146						0.063	0.500
GTDH-A	a	0.977	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
	b	0.023											
G3PDH-A	a	0.989	1.000	0.967	1.000	0.979		1.000	1.000	1.000			
	b	0.011		0.033		0.021	1.000				1.000	1.000	1.000
IDH-A	a	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
IDH-B	a						1.000				1.000	1.000	1.000
LDH-A	b	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000		1.000	1.000	1.000			
	a						1.000				1.000	1.000	1.000
LDH-B	b	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000		1.000	1.000	1.000			
	a					0.083	1.000				1.000	1.000	1.000
MDH-A	b	0.989	0.880	1.000	1.000	0.917		1.000	1.000	1.000			
	c	0.011	0.120										
	a		0.060										
MDH-B	b	1.000	0.940	1.000	0.500	1.000		1.000	1.000	1.000	0.150		
	c				0.500		1.000				0.850	1.000	1.000
	a	0.023	0.040					0.500	0.321	0.283	0.000	0.063	
MDHP-A	b	0.511	0.440	0.933		0.833	1.000		0.679	0.717	0.900	0.937	1.000
	c	0.466	0.520	0.067	1.000	0.167		0.500			0.100		
	a	0.159	0.220		0.500	0.625			0.179	0.065		0.063	
MDHP-B	b	0.841	0.740	0.533	0.500	0.375		1.000	0.821	0.935		0.375	
	c		0.040	0.467			1.000				1.000	0.562	1.000
	a		0.040							0.022			
PGM-A	b	1.000	0.920	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.978	1.000	1.000	1.000
	c		0.040										
	a	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
PGM-C	a						0.833				0.400	0.812	0.500
	b	0.045	0.020	0.600	0.250	0.229	0.167	0.500	0.429	0.413	0.600	0.188	
	c	0.955	0.920	0.400	0.750	0.771		0.500	0.571	0.587			0.500
	d		0.060										
PGDH-A	a	1.000	0.980	1.000	1.000	1.000		1.000	1.000	1.000			
	b		0.020				1.000				1.000	1.000	1.000
A		1.6	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2
P		16.7	44.1	27.8	27.8	38.9	16.7	16.7	27.8	27.8	27.8	38.9	16.7
H		0.063	0.102	0.085	0.09	0.058	0.074	0.167	0.075	0.048	0.056	0.069	0.167

In summary, in localities where metamorphs of the larger type were found (localities 1, 2, 5, 7, and 8), larvae were also seen, while larvae were not found in any season where metamorphs of only the smaller type were found (9, 10). In localities 3, 4, and 6, only larval forms were found and these were similar to larvae collected from other localities. Metamorphs of both the larger and smaller types were found in locality 5, but only one type of larvae similar to those from other localities was found there.

Allozymic variation

We have scored genotypes at all loci for all individuals examined. In all samples but that from locality 5 (KIKUKA=Sample 5), genotype frequencies agreed well with the Hardy-Weinberg expectation ($P > 0.05$) for all polymorphic loci. In contrast, genotype frequency in Sample 5 deviated significantly from the Hardy-Weinberg expectation at all polymorphic loci, and exhibited a low H (0.060) and high P values (66.7). Based on allele composition at four loci (IDH-B, LDH-A, MDH-A, and PGDH-A), this sample was unequivocally divided into two subsamples (hereafter referred to as Subsamples 5-1 and 5-2). Genotypic frequencies in each subsample exhibited better fitting to the Hardy-Weinberg expectation than those in the whole Sample 5. These results indicated that Sample 5 included at

least two reproductively exclusive units as represented by the two subsamples.

The ten samples and two subsamples were divided into two groups by clear differences in allelic frequencies at eight loci, including complete allelic displacement at two loci (Fig. 2, Table 3). One group (hereafter referred to as Group I) consisted of Samples 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8, and Subsample 5-1, and the other group (Group II) consisted of Samples 9, 10 and 11, and Subsample 5-2. The two subsamples (5-1 and 5-2) greatly differed in the allelic frequencies at nine loci, of which four lacked heterozygotes and were completely displaced between them. All larvae collected were assigned to Group I.

Table 4 presents two genetic distance coefficients for pairwise comparisons of samples and subsamples (Nei, 1978; Wright, 1978). Because Samples 6 and 11 consisted of only one individual (Table 1), we excluded these samples from genetic distance calculations. Nei's (1978) D value ranged from 0.000 to 0.801, with the highest D value between Sample 1 and Subsample 5-2. Between Groups I and II, values for both genetic distances were invariably large. In both UPGMA and NJ phenograms constructed, two large branches exactly corresponding to Groups I and II were recognized (Fig. 3).

TABLE 4. Matrices of Nei's (1978) unbiased genetic distance (above diagonal) and modified Rogers' distance (Wright, 1978) (below diagonal) among eight samples and two subsamples of *Hynobius naevius* analyzed. Sample/subsample numbers correspond to those in Table 1.

Sample/subsample	1	2	3	4	5-1	5-2	7	8	9	10
1		0.002	0.044	0.054	0.043	0.801	0.030	0.024	0.697	0.679
2	0.060		0.046	0.045	0.040	0.789	0.033	0.027	0.683	0.669
3	0.203	0.206		0.099	0.038	0.652	0.023	0.019	0.538	0.573
4	0.228	0.210	0.299		0.061	0.718	0.073	0.081	0.614	0.619
5-1	0.199	0.193	0.190	0.239		0.674	0.021	0.031	0.567	0.576
5-2	0.719	0.709	0.667	0.686	0.670		0.686	0.715	0.027	0.031
7	0.172	0.178	0.154	0.260	0.148	0.677		0.000	0.587	0.592
8	0.152	0.162	0.141	0.272	0.172	0.690	0.049		0.607	0.602
9	0.677	0.667	0.614	0.641	0.621	0.181	0.632	0.643		0.021
10	0.668	0.658	0.625	0.640	0.622	0.195	0.630	0.638	0.159	

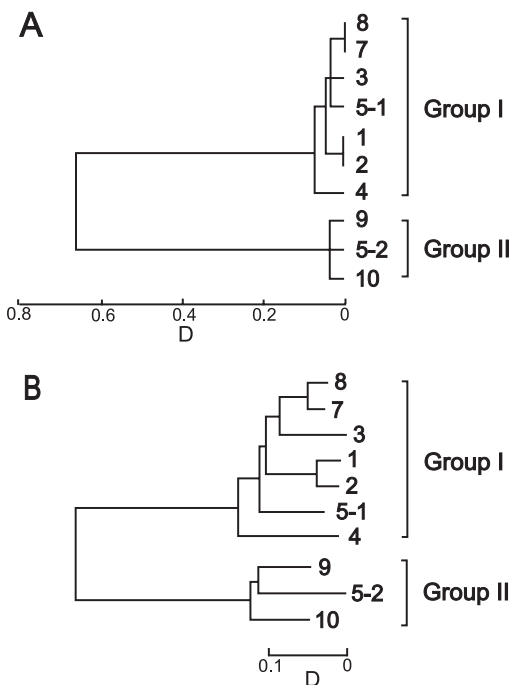


FIG. 3. UPGMA phenogram based on Nei's (1978) unbiased genetic distances (A) and neighbor-joining tree (rooted at the midpoint of the longest path) based on modified Rogers' distance (Wright, 1978) (B) among eight samples and two subsamples of *Hynobius naevius* studied.

With respect to the adult morphological characteristics, Groups I and II completely corresponded to the types showing larger body size and unmottled bluish purple dorsum, and smaller body size and brownish white mottling on reddish purple dorsum, respectively.

Sample 8 (ASO) from the inner slope of the Aso caldera belonged to Group I. Within this group, ASO was genetically closest to the geographically closest Sample 7 (KIKUCHI-KEIKOKU) with extremely small genetic distances (Nei's $D=0.000$, modified Rogers' $D=0.049$). The two samples did not differ significantly in allelic frequencies at any polymorphic loci examined (χ^2 -test, $P>0.05$).

DISCUSSION

The present results indicate that the sala-

manders from central Kyushu, currently identified as *H. naevius*, actually include two genetically, morphologically, and ecologically distinct groups and that their representatives occur sympatrically at least in KIKUKA (locality number 5 in Fig. 1). These findings are comparable to a case of sympatric occurrences of two *H. naevius* types in northern Kyushu reported by Tominaga et al. (2003). From comparisons of our genotypic, morphological, and ecological data with those given by Tominaga et al. (2003), it is obvious that our groups I and II correspond to their types A and B, respectively. These two groups are considered to represent two distinct species, because even in areas of sympatry they showed complete allelic displacements at five (in central Kyushu: this paper) or two loci (in northern Kyushu: Tominaga et al., 2003).

Mechanisms responsible for the reproductive isolation between Groups I and II are yet to be studied. From the cases of other lotic-breeding *Hynobius* species from Kyushu (Sengoku et al., 1996), breeding seems to occur in spring in both groups. Although we could not find eggs for either group, Group I females having mature eggs were found in the streams, where we also found larvae of the same group throughout the year. On the other hand, in spite of our intensive field survey, we could not find any larvae or just metamorphosed individuals of Group II in the same streams in any season. Instead, females of Group II with seemingly mature eggs were found under the ground far from the streams. These findings suggest a possible differentiation in breeding environment between the two groups. A similar situation has been reported for the salamanders in northern Kyushu by Tominaga et al. (2003), who suggested from field observations that their type B (=Group II of this study) breeds underground. Elucidating the breeding habits of this group in central Kyushu is one of the most important tasks to be achieved.

In northern Kyushu, Tominaga et al. (2003) found much wider occurrence of Group I (for identification, see above) than Group II, while

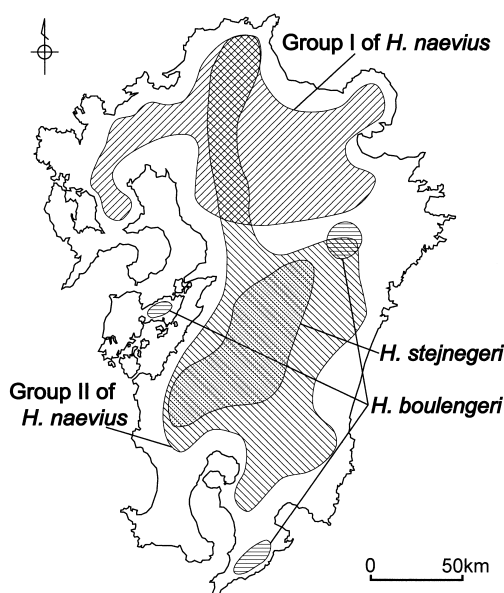


FIG. 4. A map of Kyushu, showing ranges of distributions of lotic-breeding *Hynobius*. Data for distributional ranges of *H. boulengeri* and *H. stejnegeri* were taken from Nishikawa et al. (2001, 2003).

Sato et al. (1994) reported the presence of Group I in northern and central Kyushu, and of Group II in southern Kyushu. In western central Kyushu where our survey was carried out, specimens of Group I were found only in the northern localities, while those of Group II were found in both northern and southern localities. Judging from these lines of distribution, we suspect that Group I is distributed from northern to central Kyushu, while Group II is mainly distributed in southern Kyushu and partially in central and northern Kyushu, with limited sympatry with Group I in the latter two regions (Fig. 4).

As already noted by Tominaga et al. (2003), lotic-breeding salamanders from Kyushu show interesting distributions; the larger type of *H. naevius* (Group I), *H. boulengeri*, and *H. stejnegeri* are entirely allopatric with each other, while the smaller type of *H. naevius* (Group II) is occasionally sympatric with them (Fig. 4). The former three salamanders are all larger than the latter and are known to breed

in streams, whereas available data suggest underground breeding of Group II salamanders. Such difference in breeding environment might be playing an important role in enhancing a premating isolation (Mayr, 1963) between them. Also, this difference, along with divergence in body size, may lead to resource partitioning in both larvae and adults through segregation in microhabitat, enabling them to coexist in some parts of Kyushu. These assumptions need verification by future field studies.

Population 8 (ASO) inhabiting the inner slope of Aso Volcano was genetically closest to the geographically nearest population (Population 7=KIKUCHI-KEIKOKU) with only slight genetic differentiation. According to the geological evidence (Machida et al., 2001), the past four pyroclastic flows produced by volcanic eruptions of Aso severely destroyed the surrounding environment. Shimoyama et al. (1994, 1995) argued that the last pyroclastic flow ca. 85,000 years ago, reaching over 400°C in temperature, ruined the surrounding forests by roasting them. If this is the case, the salamander population ancestral to Population 8 is most likely to have dispersed into the current caldera area quite recently. Except for localities 8 (this study) and 12 [record in Environmental Agency of Japan (1979)], there are no records of *H. naevius* in the regions surrounding Aso Volcano. This may reflect the severe destruction of habitats of the salamander by the past pyroclastic flows of Aso and its recent slow re-migration from the neighboring area. The results of our genetic investigation support this view.

Tominaga et al. (2003), while considering their types A and B as corresponding to the northern and southern Kyushu types (Sato et al., 1994), respectively, rejected the validity of the central Kyushu type of Sato et al. (1994). However, samples of salamanders from central Kyushu examined by Tominaga et al. (2003) were very limited in number. In the present study, we surveyed many more samples from central Kyushu than these authors, but still failed to find the central Kyushu type, which is,

according to Sato et al. (1994), characterized by a large body size and mottled dorsum. It is almost certain that there are only two types of *H. naevius* at least in northern Kyushu and the western part of central Kyushu. However, with respect to the salamander populations in the eastern part of central Kyushu, data available to us are still insufficient to negate the validity of the central Kyushu type, and further survey in the eastern part is required.

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